

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 1997

6:30 P.M.

AGENDA

1. Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call
2. Correspondence
3. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approve and Accept the Minutes of the July 29, 1997 Town Council Meeting
 - b. Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#10-21) Totalling \$4,412.48 - Tax Collector
 - c. Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor
 - d. Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date
 - e. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,897 from Contingency General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Salaries - Building Acct. #001-2050-101-1000 - Personnel
4. Items Removed from the Consent Agenda
5. Report Out by the Chief of Police on the Topic of the Significant Increase in the Number of Burglaries Reported Recently as Requested by Councilor Stephen W. Knight
 - Method by Which Statistics are Compiled
 - Procedures Being Taken to Combat Increase in Burglaries
 - Measures Residents Can Take to Prevent Becoming a Possible Burglary Victim
6. Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$5,500 from Contingency General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Various Accounts Within the Animal Control Officer's Budget
7. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,300 from Maint. Structures & Improvements Acct. #651-000 to Electricity, Gas & Misc. Utilities Acct. #643-000 in the F.Y. 1996-97 Sewer Division Budget

(OVER)

8. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in an Amount Totalling \$26,000 from Various Accts. Within the Sewer Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension & Benefits Acct. #926-000 - Sewer Division
9. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in an Amount Totalling \$21,000 from Various Accounts Within the Water Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension and Benefits Acct. #926-000 - Water Division
10. Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,000 from New Distribution Lines Acct. #343-098 to Distribution Reservoirs & Standpipes Acct. #342-098 - Water Division
11. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File Application With the State of Connecticut for State Drug Enforcement Grant Funds - Mayor's Office
12. Consider and Approve Waiving the Lease Payment of \$750 by SCOW Unless Grant Money to Cover Said Payment is Available - Mayor's Office
13. Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File an Application With the State of Connecticut for a Social Service Block Grant - Mayor's Office
14. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for September 9, 1997 at 7:45 P.M. on an Ordinance to Fund the Senior Citizen Center Expansion Project (Amount of Ordinance will be Available 8/14/97)
15. Consider and Approve Authorizing Corporation Counsel of the Town to Bid the Amount of the Town's Debt in a Matter Involving Unpaid Tax Liens - Law Department

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 1997

6:30 P.M.

ADDENDUM TO AGENDA

- 12a. Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application to the State of Connecticut Department of Social Services for the SCOW (Spanish Community of Wallingford) Grant - Mayor's Office

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 1997

6:30 P.M.

SUMMARY

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
2. Withdrawn	
3. Consent Agenda - Items #3a-3e	1
4. Withdrawn	
PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD - Status Report Inquiry on Yankee Gas Co.'s Testing at Community Lake; Complaint Re: Unsightly Condition of Town-Owned Property due to Overgrowth of Weeds; Question Re: Parking Behind the American Legion Building; Discussion Re: the Pension Fund; Questions Re: the Necessity for Holding Executive Sessions; Complaint RE: Gas Company's Lack of Properly Marking an Open Work Site on E. Center Street so as to Prevent Injuries to Passersby; Complaint Re: the Placement of a Foreign Flag above the MIA Flag at the Railroad Station Green; Report of Abandoned Vehicle in N. Orchard Street Parking Lot; Comment Re: the Hiring of a New Town Engineer; Suggestion to Eliminate Executive Sessions	1-6
5. Report Out by the Chief of Police on the Topic of Burglaries in the Town of Wallingford	6-13
6. Approve an Appropriation of \$5,500 to Various Accts. Within the Animal Control Officer's Budget for the Purpose of Initiating a Program to Address the Feral Cat Problem in Town	13-16
7. Approve a Transfer of \$4,300 to Electricity, Gas & Misc. Utilities Acct. in the F.Y. 1996-97 Sewer Division Budget	16-18
8. Approve a Transfer in an Amount Totalling \$26,000 from Various Accts. Within the Sewer Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension & Benefits Acct.	18-24
9. Approve a Transfer Totalling \$21,000 from Various Accts. Within the Water Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension and Benefits Acct.	24

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Page No.</u>
10. Approve a Transfer of \$1,000 to Distrib. Reservoirs and Standpipes Acct. - Water Division	24-25
11. Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File Application with the State of CT. for State Drug Enforcement Grant Funds - Mayor's Office	25-26
12. Approve Waiving the \$750 Lease Payment by SCOW Unless Grant Money to Cover Said Payment is Available - Mayor's Office	26-27
13. Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File an Application with the State of CT. for a Social Service Block Grant - Mayor's Office	27-28
14. SET A PUBLIC HEARING for Sept. 9, 1997 at 7:45 P.M. on an Ordinance Appropriating \$175,000 to Fund the Senior Citizen Center Expansion Project	28
15. Approve Authorizing Corporation Counsel to Bid the Amount of the Town's Debt in a Matter Involving Unpaid Tax Liens - Law Dept.	28

Addendum

12a. Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application to the State of CT. Dept. of Social Services for the SCOW Grant	27
---	----

Waiver of Rule V

To Hold an Executive Session - Sale of Property	28
Authorize the Mayor's Office to Negotiate the Purchase of Real Estate as Discussed in Executive Session	29

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

AUGUST 19, 1997

6:30 P.M.

A re-scheduled meeting of the Wallingford Town Council was held on Tuesday, August 19, 1997 in the Robert Earley Auditorium of the Wallingford Town Hall and called to Order by Chairman Robert F. Parisi at 6:34 P.M. All Councilors answered present to the Roll called by Town Clerk Rosemary A. Rascati with the exception of Councilors Renda and Zappala who were vacationing out of town. Mayor William W. Dickinson, Jr., Corporation Counselor Adam Mantzaris and Comptroller Thomas A. Myers were also present.

A blessing was bestowed upon the Council by Pastor Dan Boisvert of the Beacon House Full Gospel Church of Wallingford.

The Pledge of Allegiance was given to the Flag.

ITEM #2 Correspondence - Withdrawn

ITEM #3 Consent Agenda

ITEM #3a Approve and Accept the Minutes of the 7/29/97 Town Council Meeting

ITEM #3b Consider and Approve Tax Refunds (#10-21) Totalling \$4,412.48 - Tax Collector

ITEM #3c Note for the Record Anniversary Increases Approved by the Mayor to Date

ITEM #3d Note for the Record Mayoral Transfers Approved to Date

ITEM #3e Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$1,897 from Contingency General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Salaries - Building Acct. #001-2050-101-1000 - Personnel

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Consent Agenda as Presented, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

ITEM #4 Items Removed from the Consent Agenda - Withdrawn

PUBLIC QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked for a status report from Mr. Farrell on Yankee Gas Company's testing in the vicinity of Community Lake.

Mr. Farrell responded, the testing process is still taking place and many of us are eager for the results. He is staying on top of the issue and stated that he is not the only individual who is doing so.

Mr. Melillo asked if a representative of the Town has been assigned to watch over the project for the Town's best interest?

Mr. Farrell responded, he seems to recall that someone has been given the task but cannot remember who it was.

Mr. Melillo next passed an article on deregulation of the electric utility industry to the Council secretary to be copied and distributed to all Councilors.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked if Henry McCully, Director of Public Works would be present this evening?

Mayor Dickinson answered, no, he would not.

Mr. Wright informed the Council and Mayor that the former Wooding property is overgrown with weeds and one of the fire hydrants is blocked and inaccessible. With regards to the American Legion and Lacey Properties both are a mess. At the last meeting someone raised the issue that the Lacey Property now owned by the Town was overgrown extensively. As of yesterday nothing had been done with it. The Legion property is messy looking as well. There are cars parked there as early as 7:30 A.M. which means that someone other than Town employees are using the lot. The "devils acre" at the intersection of Pond Hill Road and South Elm Street is also unsightly. Weeds are growing in, on and around it. He asked if the Town's liability is increased if the public is parking behind the Legion building?

Mayor Dickinson answered, no, there is no increase in liability to the Town.

Mr. Wright stated that he visited the Town Hall on Monday afternoon only to find no parking space available to him. While waiting for one to become available he took a ride to 88 S. Main Street and found that thirty-eight (38) spaces were available there. It does not seem right. He thought that something should be done about it.

Mayor Dickinson responded that it would be difficult to police and enforce parking rules at the Town Hall.

Mr. Wright next referred to the July 29th minutes of the Town Council meeting, specifically page 31, which reflects discussion pertaining to the pension fund. The discussion inferred that the taxpayers are possibly over taxed when the Town over funds its pension account.

Mr. Wright went on to say the Chairman suggested that all parties having doubts or questions about the procedure of funding the pension fund meet with the Mayor and Comptroller. There was mention made of a meeting being scheduled before the end of the summer. Mr. Wright asked if the meeting had been held yet?

Mr. Parisi informed Mr. Wright that the meeting had been scheduled three times and for one reason or another had to be re-scheduled. A fourth attempt has been made to schedule it for the middle of September.

Mayor Dickinson explained, in excess of twenty (20) and possibly as many as forty (40) towns in the state have funded their pension accounts to meet one hundred percent (100%) or more of their liability. Wallingford is one of a substantial amount of communities who have funded this account properly. At one time there was a twenty-two percent (22%) rate of contribution. Last year it was approximately seven percent (7%); this year it is slightly more than four percent (4%). There will never be a year in which the pension fund will not be budgeted for.

With regards to executive sessions, Mr. Wright asked, how does the public know what the topic of discussion is in executive session?

Mr. Parisi responded, the State Statute cited in the language of the agenda item and the description which follows lets the public know what the general topic is.

Mr. Wright asked, are there any records kept of the session?

Mayor Dickinson responded, no, if so the information would be a matter of public record. The reason for entering executive session is to protect the interest of the public. Certain information, if disclosed could jeopardize the Town's position in a matter such as a real estate purchase or legal matter.

Mr. Wright pointed out how he asked Personnel Director Terence Sullivan at the last meeting what was going to be discussed in executive session. Mr. Sullivan told Mr. Wright that he would be discussing the Electric, Electric Clerical and Water contracts. These contracts fall under the category of collective bargaining. At no time was it ever mentioned that the Council would also be discussing the Building Inspector's re-classification in the executive session yet, when the Council exited the executive session action was taken on a request to re-classify the position. He reminded the Council and Mayor how the elected, appointed and professional officials of the Town have a duty and responsibility to the public to make sure that what is discussed in executive session is truly what was represented to be the topic of discussion.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive recited the following quote from Will Rogers, "I am not a member of an organized political party, I am a Democrat". He then welcomed Mr. Gouveia to the Council stating that he disliked the negative actions taken to keep the seat on the Council from being filled quickly. He pointed out how a member of the majority party commented in the newspaper that the issue was a matter of politics. He stated, if a bus driver on a busy route in Boston suddenly died a replacement would be serving the community the next day. It was an unfortunate turn of events that led to the vacancy on the Council however, the people deserved to be represented.

Reginald Knight next commented how he encountered a large hole in the sidewalk while walking on E. Center Street one Sunday evening. It measured approximately 4'X 4'X 3' and was full of standing water and pipes. He brought the matter to the attention of the police who placed tree trunks across the opening to keep anyone from walking in to the hazardous site. Yellow tape had been tied across each side of the opening providing little protection to the public. He called the Mayor's Office on Monday to notify him hoping that something would be done to better protect the public. The secretary took all the information and stated that it was not Public Works' responsibility to address the issue. The following day there had been no change in the situation. Mr. Knight once again called the Police who stated that it was not their business and could do nothing for Mr. Knight. He then called the Electric Division who echoed the same response. At the Gaylord Hospital Rotary Picnic Wednesday, Mr. Knight brought the matter to the Mayor's attention. The Mayor responded that something would be done about the matter. The situation remained unchanged. He asked, why couldn't the Town place the large orange barrels with blinking lights on top to warn people walking at night? Why wasn't something done?

Mayor Dickinson responded, work was being performed by the Gas Company who has since finished the project. He could not dispatch Town employees to a Gas Company construction site for the fear that gas may be leaking. The Town has no jurisdiction to interfere in such a matter. The Engineering Department had been in touch with the Gas Company while the work was ongoing.

On a separate matter, Reginald Knight pointed out that a foreign flag had been flying above the MIA (Missing In Action) flag on the flagpole at the Johanna Manfreda Fishbein Park at the Railroad Station. No foreign flag should ever fly above one of our flags. The Stars & Stripes fly first and the MIA second. Any other flag is to be displayed below the two.

Mr. Parisi stated, had Mr. Knight called him and informed him of the situation he would have had it corrected immediately. He should have called someone.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street informed the Chief of Police that a motor vehicle has been parked in the North Orchard parking lot for approximately six to seven months now. He is of the opinion that it has been abandoned and would like the matter looked into. He went on to say, with regards to Reginald Knight's complaint, the quickest way to get attention is to call the Gas Company and inform them that you smell gas in the area of the construction. He guaranteed that a crew would show up quickly.

Philip Wright, Sr. commented that he was glad to see a Town Engineer who has experience as a traffic engineer as well hired by the Town. It was even more pleasing to learn that the new hiree is John Thompson formerly of Milone & McBroom of Cheshire.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place asked, how will the Town's pension plan conform to the federal government's tax overhaul? Are we doing our homework on the issue to see how it affects us?

Mayor Dickinson responded, that is the responsibility of the Pension Commission to do so. He has no doubt that they are following the matter.

Mr. Melillo next asked, can the Town legally eliminate all executive sessions if it so desires?

Adam Mantzaris, Corporation Counselor responded, yes.

Mr. Melillo was of the opinion that the Town should eliminate them from the meetings for there are more "cons" than "pros" to having them. It would be in the spirit of democracy to discuss the information in public for it would be satisfying the majority of the people in this town who are entitled to know what has been going on with all of these executive sessions. He suggested placing an item on the next Council meeting agenda dealing with passing a resolution or ordinance eliminating executive sessions from meetings. The majority is supposed to rule. This is a matter of a few ruling the many in these executive sessions. No matter how honest those few are that is besides the point.

Atty. Mantzaris explained, the State law does not require executive sessions but allows them for the three or four specific items listed in the Statute. One of those items is personnel matters; another is litigation; another is purchase or sale of real estate; the fourth is labor negotiations. You can appreciate that if some of those items were public how the Town would compromise its position in matters. For example, if the Council were to discuss the purchase or sale of real estate in open session and divulge its plans it could drive up the price costing the taxpayers more money for the parcel. With regards to litigation the Town's strategies are often discussed on certain cases which may cause the Town to lose in the end, etc. It is not that the executive sessions are held for fun or for no good reason, there is ordinarily a very good

reason. He does not recommend that the Council eliminate the executive sessions.

Mayor Dickinson added, public business has privacy issues. For the Town to try and conduct public business by divulging all of our positions would not be in the interest of the public. That is why executive sessions are necessary. The effort of the law was to give government the same rights as private citizens in some areas for the purpose of keeping matters confidential to protect the interests of everyone.

Mr. Melillo reiterated his position with regards to the elimination of executive sessions.

Mr. Farrell stated, the topic Mr. Melillo is raising is a good one; just because something has been done one way doesn't mean that it always has to be done that way. When he started his term on the Council he felt somewhat the way Mr. Melillo did. In looking back in the minutes he did vote against entering several executive sessions. The longer he served on the Council, however, the more attuned he became of the fact that the Council could not discuss certain matters in public. He did not know that there was something nefarious going on. Although he did not feel that Mr. Melillo suggested that there was, he did feel that a previous speaker had alluded to the fact. The Council has always done this and the State Statutes allow for it and the more attuned you become you can see why it is necessary.

Mr. Gouveia acknowledged Reginald Knight's comments regarding his appointment to the Council by thanking him for his kind words. He also stated that he was privileged and honored to sit in the position, especially under the circumstances which caused his appointment (the sudden passing away of Councilor David Doherty). With regards to the politics of the matter, he did wish that it would have been a smoother appointment nonetheless he had learned long ago that when you venture out into the rain sometimes you get wet. That is what may have happened to a small degree in this instance.

Mr. Parisi commented that he did not believe that there were any politics involved in the matter. The intent of the waiting period was very clear right up front. It is over with, Mr. Gouveia is seated at the Council bench. He asked that the Council get on with their business.

The Chair declared the Public Question and Answer Period closed at this time.

ITEM #5 Report Out by the Chief of Police on the Topic of the Significant Increase in the Number of Burglaries Reported Recently as Requested by Councilor Stephen W. Knight.

- Method by Which Statistics are Compiled
- Procedures Being Taken to Combat Increase in Burglaries
- Measures Residents can Take to Prevent Becoming a Possible Burglary Victim

Mr. Knight explained how an elaborate article appeared in the Record Journal five or six weeks ago detailing crime statistics in the four town area that the paper principally serves. The article stated that Wallingford experienced a twenty-one percent (21%) increase in burglaries in 1996. He asked the Chief of Police to explain how the statistics are extrapolated and whether or not the numbers reported were accurate; how the Police Department attacks such changes in the town relative to what they are doing; and to share what the department feels the public can do to protect ourselves a little better if we do, indeed, have this problem on the increase.

Douglas Dortenzio, Chief of Police responded, we should first understand what is counted in terms of burglaries. Burglaries, in the minds of the public, is associated with someone that breaks into their home or business and steals their possessions. They are correct. For purposes of the statistics, however, we also include cases where someone tried but did not succeed; cases where something was broken into but nothing was taken; cases where multiple storage containers located at one business address have had their padlocks cut off. Some communities will consider the case of the storage containers one burglary. In reality they are supposed to count it by the number of victims which is what we do in Wallingford. If a burglar were to gain entry to an office building taking goods from office after office after office, the department counts all individual burglaries within the same structure. We have witnessed some skewing of the burglary rate in the last calendar year. You can drive your statistics very easily, particularly when dealing with small numbers. You can end up with one night of burglaries having a very large increase in the overall annual rate.

A packet of information was distributed to the Council (Appendix I) which contained a graph of the annual burglary count over the past few years. The data reveals that 1992 exhibited the highest rate of burglaries. The rate decreased every year thereafter and then rose again in 1996, most likely for the reasons cited above.

As stated in the Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics Brochure, a publication of the U.S. Department of Justice included in the packet of information, no one town should ever be compared to another. Despite that information a graph was generated and also included in the packet which compared burglary rates of the towns of Southington, Wallingford, Enfield and Middletown for the 1995-96 reporting period. The reason for this comparison was due to the fact that the Record Journal, in its article, compared Wallingford

to other local communities whose population, amount of commercial establishments, number of schools, etc. did not resemble Wallingford's so as to provide a true comparison. The standard publication in Connecticut entitled, Crime in Connecticut was referenced to obtain the data on a few communities that were within ten percent (10%) of Wallingford's population. Southington, Enfield and Middletown were the three to come the closest. Of the four communities listed on the graph, Enfield was the only one that did not show a rise in burglaries in 1995-96.

This current calendar year (Jan.- July) shows a drop in our burglary rate as compared to the same time period last year. Despite the increase in burglaries in 1996 the department actually realized a decrease in residential burglaries.

With regards to Mr. Knight's request for a report on the procedures being taken to combat the increase in burglaries, Chief Dortenzio explained how most residential burglaries occur between 9:00 A.M. and 2:00 P.M. while residents are at work or school. The homes frequently have the appearance that there is no one present and present an opportunity for a burglar. Chief Dortenzio offered the following suggestions that residents can implement to help ward off a potential burglar:

- leave a radio or television running (it gives the impression that someone may be home)
- do not leave exterior lights on at the residence when you go off to work or away for the day (this gives the burglar a clue that no one will be home for an extended period of time)
- do not leave notes taped to the front door of the house for delivery clerks
- don't advertise that you are away for vacations
- cancel newspaper subscriptions
- have the post office hold your mail
- have a neighbor check on your home periodically
- conduct a home security check (free service provided by the Police Department)

Chief Dortenzio informed everyone that many publications and brochures are available to the public in the lobby of the Police Department. He encouraged the public to visit the station to review the information which is updated on a regular basis. Some of the topics addressed are, safety tips for the elderly; holiday shopping at malls and how to best protect yourself; fraud, etc. The publications are also distributed to Wallingford's Block Watch groups. We currently have approximately 1,000 residents who belong to fifty-four (54) watch groups. Community safety is a shared responsibility and the department cannot substitute the advantages of neighbors watching out for each other.

Mr. Knight deduced from the Chief's comments that the department

was not changing its tactics in any remarkable way because, statistically, these changes in the numbers are not cause for alarm.

Chief Dortenzio stated, although he would not air the department's tactics he explained that they do look for common denominators and patterns of crime. Where discernable, the department strategizes about not only apprehension but prevention and takes the appropriate actions. It is not unusual for a particular part of the community to be plagued in terms of burglaries. You may think that there were one hundred burglars that descended upon our community when essentially what you have is one youngster who is working hard at becoming a career criminal. Upon apprehension the neighborhood returns to tranquility sometimes for several years.

Mr. Knight stated how he installed an alarm system in his residence when he felt threatened by a few burglaries occurring in his neighborhood. He had been unaware that the systems must be registered with the Police Department. He asked the Chief to elaborate on the matter for the sake of public knowledge.

Chief Dortenzio explained, the Town has a few ordinances that are of keen interest not only to his department but the Department of Fire Services as well. One is that the residence must be properly numbered for emergency vehicles. With respect to alarm systems, whether commercial or residential they are required to be registered with the Police Department, according to Town ordinance. There are restrictions pertaining to the number of false alarms that the department will tolerate before levying monetary penalties for them. The number of false alarms that occur in one year number in the thousands and tie up the department's resources. There is no fee to register the alarm system and the homeowner or resident receives a decal to place in a conspicuous spot at the entrance to the residence. At the time of registration the homeowner or resident is asked to provide the names of responsible individuals whom they can trust in the event that they are away from home or on vacation and the alarm is triggered.

Mr. Knight thanked Chief Dortenzio for his thorough presentation.

Chief Dortenzio took a moment to thank the Council for establishing a reward fund as a show of interest in solving the flag burning incidents. There have been some arrests made in the case and this morning twenty more arrest warrants have been sent to the courts for the remainder of the flag burnings in town. Some warrants are going to New Haven and some to Meriden. They will most likely be signed within the coming weeks and promptly served. During the course of those flag burning incidents one of the internal operations of the department was shut down to make available as many individuals as possible working from 9:00 P.M. to 5:00 A.M. in a limited area in town to provide comfort to the residents in the center of town and to apprehend the individuals responsible.

The process had been curtailed at the moment for we believe to have sufficient evidence to prosecute those individuals responsible.

Mr. Centner asked, with regards to the neighborhood block watch program, has it been growing?

Chief Dortenzio responded, they have a life cycle and most of them start as a result of some perceived need in the neighborhood. When that occurs the department is inundated with requests for organizational meetings, literature, instruction, etc. As the problems which caused the block watch to arise subside then we generally see the block watch activity subside until such time as it is needed. People come and go, change jobs, move and their level of participation is generally commensurate with their perceived risk. We keep a record of all participants and if the department feels there is reason for them to be concerned again or we need assistance in solving some problem in that neighborhood the department reaches out to whomever the block watch captains are along with the more active people in the community and ask for their cooperation and support in trying to address a new issue.

Mr. Centner asked if there was a rise in "team burglaries" involving two or more individuals working together? Have there been any reports of individuals posing as utility personnel in an effort to gain entry?

Chief Dortenzio responded, no there are so few instances where a number of individuals are working as a team. The department works very closely with the utility companies. If we have any reports of such action most utility firms, if large enough, have security directors that oversee those types of problems. They are just as concerned about their good name and image as we are concerned about the crime. We have a close working relationship with them if those crimes occur.

Mr. Centner asked, is there a requirement for magazine vendors to register with the Police Department when peddling from door to door?

Chief Dortenzio responded, we don't have a registration process. Some of the more responsible firms will call ahead to let the department know they will have personnel in the area, however, it is not usually the case.

Mr. Farrell suggested that the department consider employing or designating an individual to act as a victim's liaison to the court system. It is very difficult for victims to keep on top of when a case which involves them is coming before a judge, whether or not it has been continued, postponed, etc. This discourages victims from appearing in court to impress upon the judge the impact it has made on their lives which may cause a judge to weigh a case differently. If we put out the word that Wallingford is so tough

on crime that we have an individual at the department who follows through on those issues, maybe it would be a help. He did not mean to imply that the department nor the State Attorney's Office does not follow through, they do but they can only do so much.

Chief Dortenzio explained that his department has insufficient labor personnel to perform such a duty. Victims have varying degrees of interest in following the matter through the courts. The State has opened up victim's rights provisions in the last few sessions of the General Assembly including parts of the juvenile court system. He does instruct his staff to contact victims if and when the perpetrator is arrested to inform them that although no goods have been recovered the individual is about to be prosecuted. The department's investigators in the Traffic Unit work very closely with those families left behind when someone has been killed in a motor vehicle accident, particularly if it involves drunk driving. That type of victim has a much keener interest in the outcome of the case. We will try to stay on top of that case, advise them, explain to them what they are likely to see, where they may be able to inject comment and basically touch base with them after the process is completed. We have a number of residents in town who have been the unfortunate victims of those tragedies and we have some very lasting relationships with them. Many times when we perform our sobriety check points during the holidays we have a number of residents who come out and stand with our police officers and hand out public service literature.

Mr. Farrell asked, if we gave you that kind of position (Victim Liaison) are you saying that it would be helpful?

Chief Dortenzio responded, Dave Baker, Crime Prevention Officer is a type of victim advocate. In most routine cases individual detectives do the same thing. With certain other cases, some of our sexual assaults, we have special provisions to help victims in those cases find their way through the legal system. One of the difficulties for the department is that they frequently find themselves wanting to do more than is feasible. They have to focus on what their primary mission happens to be which is the apprehension of those responsible after the matter has occurred. The department invests a lot of time and money in prevention training programs, education programs, publications, etc. to do as much as possible with the resources available.

Mr. Farrell suggested keeping an eye out for federal grants that are offered for law enforcement. Such a program may be innovative enough to catch the attention of whoever funds those types of programs.

Chief Dortenzio stated, the department scours funding sources that will defray the cost to local taxpayers. If we can find ways to reduce our local tax burden and still maintain the operation of the agency in a way that people have become accustomed we seek

those funding sources as well.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street commended Mr. Knight for bringing the item forth for discussion. He thanked the Chief for his presentation which greatly impressed him. He pointed out that many residents do not visit the Police Department and therefore are most likely unaware of the wealth of information available in the pamphlets. Why not televise a program once a month on the public access channel?

Chief Dortenzio answered, he must be mindful of competing interests and time. There is an expense involved with a lot of the programs. There are many facets of programs offered by the department accompanied by literature, all facilitated by trained staff. Several programs have been run the last few weeks and have received television and print coverage. One was offered last Thursday at the public library.

Reginald Knight, 21 Audette Drive agreed that prevention is very important. The street on which he lives has experienced three or four burglaries within the last month. One of the neighbors initiated a petition, had it signed by the residents of the street and brought it to Town Hall. They were seeking additional lighting for their street which was very dark. We have not received any additional light not to mention a reply. The street is dangerous for walking at night due to its poor lighting. Once the porch lights are put out when people go to bed it is worse. He asked the Mayor to look into the matter. He thought that the Police Department's job was to prevent crime, not solve it. He would rather see no murders than sixteen murderers caught. The public has to care and get involved in prevention.

Chief Dortenzio encouraged Reginald Knight to call the department's Crime Prevention Unit to obtain suggestions with regards to lighting. There are measures one can take such as installing motion detectors that will help with the lighting. The unit will have other constructive suggestions to offer as well.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated, you cannot beat Officer Baker. He has done an excellent job and provides a prevention pen as well. The reason people do not get involved is that they know their identity will be revealed to anyone who requests such information. He, himself, reported an incident to the Police Department only to find by the time he left the department and reached the foot of Center Street practically every merchant along the way knew he had done so. He was under the impression that his involvement was confidential.

The Chief verified that his involvement is not confidential. There are some provisions with criminal matters pending before the courts but other than that records pertaining to matters that would not appear before the court are public immediately.

Mr. Wasilewski stated, that is why people are hesitant to get involved.

Chief Dortenzio explained, many times people will call anonymously to report something to the police. They expect the police to turn the world upside down which is not the case. It is important for the police to know who is reporting information for the purpose of returning to the source for clarification, additional detail, etc. Sometimes there is not enough information for the department to produce a case sufficient for prosecution based on the information that is delivered by radio to a cruiser who is going to respond to the call. Speculation or conjecture is not sufficient to proceed investigation of a matter.

Chairman Parisi thanked Chief Dortenzio for a fine presentation.

ITEM #6 Consider and Approve an Appropriation of Funds in the Amount of \$5,500 from Contingency General Purpose Acct. #001-8050-800-3190 to Various Accounts Within the Animal Control Officer's Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Centner.

The request is needed to fund supplies necessary to capture feral cats which have become a problem to several neighborhoods.

Mr. Centner asked, how do you distinguish a feral cat from a household pet?

Kathryn Lindemann, Animal Control Officer responded, a feral cat will be frightened of humans and are difficult to catch. A trap is normally used. Family cats are approachable and more friendly.

Mr. Centner asked, do you have to trap all of them or can you approach some of them and pick them up?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, some we can pick up, usually kittens.

Mr. Knight asked, what will the \$1,000 being transferred to "Dog Pound Operating Expenses" be used for?

Mrs. Lindemann answered, the money will be used for advertising, feeding costs, cat litter, veterinary costs if they are sick.

Mr. Knight asked, does Meriden have a program like this? It sounds as though there are a lot of these types of felines in this town.

Mrs. Lindemann responded, this is a big job for there are currently about twelve (12) cat colonies that we are aware of in town.

Mr. Knight asked, how many cats do you think are in these colonies?

Mrs. Lindemann answered, some colonies have as many as thirty (30) cats in each colony; not all of them, some of them.

Mr. Knight asked, how long would you house the animal before destroying it? Does the advertising produce good results?

Mrs. Lindemann answered, we have a good adoption rate. We also have other resources such as volunteers who offer their time and put pictures of animals in newspapers.

Mr. Knight asked, is there a demand for these animals that the advertising will take care of or will they eventually face the possibility of destruction?

April Leiler, Asst. Dog Warden explained, the truth is that feral cats that are over six to twelve weeks old will most likely not be able to be tamed. If there isn't a home available for them or someone who is willing to take responsibility for the cat and maintain its rabies shots, it will probably have to be put down. Before that is done we make an extreme effort to find the cat a home. We do have feral cat colonies that people are willing to own, feed, spay or neuter and vaccinate. This is about feral cats that don't have anyone caring for them.

Mr. Knight asked, if there are people who are willing to take care of these cat colonies it does bring to mind that the neighbors may not be all that crazy about having large numbers of those cats in their midst. Now what? Where do we go with that?

Ms. Leiler responded, that is not the issue we are talking about here. It is an issue that has gotten our attention. We have been debating on how to arrive at a compromise in each situation. We try to do something that will make everyone happy in each circumstance.

Ms. Papale asked, aren't you afraid to pick them up for they may have rabies?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, it is a risk. There have been positive rabies cases in cats in the state.

Ms. Papale stated, where do these cats come from?

Mrs. Lindemann answered, it takes just one instance where someone has moved out and rather than contacting the humane society or if they are unsuccessful in finding a home for their cat, some people will leave the pet outside to fend for itself. They will have kittens that will become feral.

Ms. Leiler added, sometimes someone will let their pet cat that they have failed to spay out of doors. The cat becomes pregnant and delivers kittens in the neighbors shed where no one sees them

until they are wild. The mother cat will return home and there will be five kittens that have become feral. The next summer those five kittens start producing more kittens and before you know it by Fall you have more kittens producing kittens.

Ms. Papale asked, is the money to tame some of the cats?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, not in every circumstance. This is to implement a program or plan to start reducing the number of the cat colonies.

Mayor Dickinson explained, once the cat is trapped, if it is determined to be a feral cat there will be an effort to obtain a home for it or find someone who will take responsibility for the cat. If that does not work out then some of the cats will have to be put to sleep.

Ms. Papale asked, if someone adopts a feral cat are they no longer feral?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, some feral cats can be tamed in some circumstances but not all of them.

If a feral cat is adopted one of the stipulations is that the animal must be spayed or neutered. There are low cost programs available to those individuals who adopt such a cat.

Mr. Gouveia asked, is this the first time you are being forced to deal with this issue? You were not aware of it at budget time?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, that's right, the problem has grown rapidly. Phone calls come into the shelter on a daily basis about this issue.

Mayor Dickinson informed everyone that \$3,700 is coming from the trust fund of the shelter to pay for the cages and traps which are necessary to implement the program.

Mr. Rys asked, if a person is feeding the feral cats does that determine ownership?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, it could.

Ms. Leiler added, according to State Statutes if you are feeding the cats then you can be referred to as the keeper or owner of the cats and can be made to be responsible for them.

Mr. Rys asked, if a domestic cat is caught in a trap will it be released before bringing it to the pound?

Ms. Leiler responded, they will be advertised by the pound. A domesticated or tamed cat can act very frightened and be defensive

if trapped therefore resembling a feral cat. We would take it back to the pound and place a call to the owner of the property at which the trap is located to see if they recognize the cat and know who it may belong to.

Mr. Rys asked, will the keepers or owners of the cats, whether domesticated or feral, be required to pay fees to retrieve their pets the same as dog owners do?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, no they do not for it is not a requirement to register their cats.

Mr. Parisi stated, the object of the program is to trap the feral cat and not the domesticated ones.

Ms. Leiler stated that the staff of the Animal Shelter will be happy to assist anyone who would like to have their pet spayed or neutered by putting them in touch with low cost programs offered in the State.

Mr. Farrell stated that he has had to have raccoons and/or squirrels trapped at the Royce House or the Blakeslee House and taken to a nature preserve and released. They were not fed and cared for at the animal shelter for a fee. Can the same be done for the feral cats?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, that would pose a problem for there are differences of opinion on the subject.

Ms. Leiler added, some people would be very upset with us if we dropped off a feral cat in their neighborhood.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville asked, are there any federal, state or local grants to help the animal shelter out with this type of problem?

Mrs. Lindemann responded, there is no federal assistance that she is aware of. The State has left it up to each municipality to decide which programs they want to adopt and how they want to address the issue.

Ms. Leiler added, there is a trust fund that the people of Wallingford can donate money to if they would like to sponsor a cat that needs to get spayed or neutered.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #7 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in the Amount of \$4,300 from Maintenance Structures & Improvements Acct. #651-000 to Electricity, Gas & Misc. Utilities Acct. #643-000 in the F.Y. 1996-97 Sewer Division Budget

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water and Sewer Divisions explained, normally at this time of the year we are completing the closure of our books for the prior fiscal year. During that process we do sometimes identify accounts that did require transfers after the close of business for the year. This transfer as well as the two that will follow all fall into this category. In this particular case the utility bills were not received until subsequent to June 30th. Upon receiving them we recognized that the expense was greater than what was budgeted. We are now looking to go back and correct that so that the records for the year close out properly.

Mr. Centner asked, what will that do to your budget this year?

Mr. Dann responded that will have no effect on this year's budget.

Mr. Gouveia asked, is this one bill or a series of bills?

Mr. Dann answered, this transfer relates to a single bill, the electric bill.

Mr. Gouveia asked, how much was that bill for?

Mr. Dann answered, just under \$16,000.

Mr. Gouveia asked, how much higher was it than the previous bill for May? Was it roughly the same? It appears as though the monthly bill averages \$17,000.

Mr. Dann responded, the previous bill was \$15,600.

Mr. Gouveia stated, on June 6th you only had \$4,500 left and yet you knew that you were not going to have money to pay for this bill and you waited until August 6th to ask for the transfer of funds.

Mr. Dann explained, at the end of June we had more than \$4,000 available in the account. The amount of the bill which came in was just under \$16,000. We are requesting a transfer of \$4,300. We had approximately \$11,700 remaining in the account at that point in time.

Mr. Gouveia stated, according to your own bookkeeping, on June 6th you have \$4,550 left. You had some money that was encumbered but the only monies available was \$4,550. You still had one more month to pay and since the bills always run around \$16,000 or thereabouts you knew that there would be less than \$4,500. This is the kind of a transfer that could have taken place prior to the end of the fiscal year.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; Gouveia, no; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #8 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in an Amount Totalling \$26,000 from Various Accts. Within the Sewer Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension & Benefits Acct. #926-000 - Sewer Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Centner asked, in your budgeting, do the vacation and sick days require the same burden for the contribution to the pension fund as a regular wage day?

Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water & Sewer Divisions responded, yes they normally would..at least for the vacation days. I don't believe that there would be a contribution to the pension fund for the sick days since those are actually accrued relative to a retiree and pay out at the time of retirement.

Mr. Centner asked, how do we budget for that in terms of an annualized amount? From past history or payroll?

Mr. Dann answered, we don't typically budget for this accrual. We wait until the end of the year and observe the changing value of the sick and vacation time. Because of contractual increases the tendency would be for this to go up. There is also a possibility that it could go down in any given year. If you had a turnover of long term employees for newer employees who have fewer vacation and sick days, there is a potential that this could go down. There have been some years where we have not had to adjust it at all. We wait until the end of the year to add up the total number of days that are outstanding at that point in time and then make a determination of what the differential is and typically then go back and make this adjustment out of funds that remain elsewhere in the budget at the close of business for the year.

Mr. Centner asked the Mayor, in a situation such as this one where we are looking to transfer \$26,000 into the pension, could that ever be covered in any year we overpay? Couldn't that be absorbed by any other account in terms of pension contributions? If we are overfunded in terms of the 100% level and may have paid in even more than required, couldn't this be absorbed by the difference?

Mayor Dickinson responded, then you would have the utility not paying what is described as its share into the pension fund. I don't think it can be done that way without resulting in other inequities. This "overfunding" is pure book value. Tomorrow's stock market could show up 30% below funding. I don't think we would want to have funds that are expected from the utility rates to be subsidized by funds paid in from taxes which pay for the general government contribution.

Mr. Centner responded, perhaps there is a way of "smoothing" it out the same way a person would do with capital gains. Some years they have a big gain and at other times they have losses that offset other gains. We could let it level itself out with the excess over the payment we are expected to contribute in any one year.

Mayor Dickinson answered, that would make the calculation for the next year's contribution much more difficult. You can never be sure where the money was coming from in any given year. At some point either the tax rate or the utility rate would be more than it should be because it is subsidizing some other portion.

Mr. Centner stated, if one area has contributed more than required or above our targeted goal and someone has contributed below...

Mayor Dickinson explained, no one has contributed more than what the budget has reflected. We have gone from a twenty-two percent (22%) of salary contribution to a four point six percent (4.6%) of salary in terms of pension contribution.

Mr. Centner added, that is based on an actuarial basis, not a real basis. There is a margin in there. What do you do in a year when a department has an excessive payment?

Mayor Dickinson responded, they can't have an excessive payment.

Mr. Dann explained, this is not a payment into the pension plan. We are not going to take this \$26,000 and make any direct payment into the pension. It is an accounting process by which we recognize a liability. If we were to close business on June 30th we would have a liability to our employees for vacation time they had earned but had not yet taken or for sick pay that they would normally receive at the time of retirement.

Mr. Gouveia asked, the \$26,000 amounts to the liability the Town owes to those employees who earned vacation and sick time but have not yet taken them up to June 30th?

Mr. Dann answered, correct.

Mr. Gouveia stated, it seems to me then that this becomes a town liability for F.Y. 1997-98 and not F.Y. 1996-97. Do you need to make this transfer because these employees are going to use their vacation or sick days in 1997?

Mr. Dann answered, the money to pay them for those vacation days is already contained in the F.Y. 1997-98 budget in the labor accounts. Again, this an accounting procedure that takes a snapshot at the end of the fiscal year to determine the liability on the part of the Town, a hypothetical liability at that point and goes through an accounting process to properly recognize and book

it at the close of the business year. There are records at the end of each fiscal year that are going to give us a correct reflection of all of the assets and liabilities of the divisions.

Mr. Gouveia asked, if you are going to have the liability in F.Y. 1997-98 then why do you need the money for F.Y. 1996-97? Why do you need to make a transfer to 1996? If the liability will actually take place in 1997-98 and you have already budgeted for it why do you need to make a transfer back to 1996?

Mr. Dann answered, at the end of this fiscal year we will go through this process again. It is an accounting process that takes place at the end of the fiscal year.

Mr. Gouveia responded, the Town's liability has been fulfilled up to June 30, 1997, the close of the fiscal year. They did not take the vacation time; they did not take the sick days; you don't need the money to pay them for they are no longer going to use the vacation or sick time for the year that has closed. They are going to use that time in the new fiscal year 1997-98. There is no further liability for 1996-97 so why make the transfer?

Thomas Myers, Comptroller, explained that this is not money that will be paid employees. It is an accrual to recognize what is due the employees.

Mr. Gouveia stated, even so the employees are not going to take these days until the new fiscal year. The money is going to have to come out of the 1997-98 budget.

Mr. Myers added, but also in 1997-98 they are accruing additional vacation and sick days.

Mr. Gouveia stated, you cannot transfer monies from a 1996 budget to a 1997 budget.

Mr. Myers responded, that is correct.

Mr. Gouveia added, the liability that is accrued; the employees are going to take either the money or the time off in 1997 and the liability is now in 1997. There is no longer a liability in 1996.

Mr. Myers explained, the liability is as of June 30, 1997 for vacation time that employees earned but had not yet taken and for sick time earned and banked. The funds are not transferred from 1996 to 1997. It is compensation that is more than probable due the employee.

Mr. Gouveia stated, but the money is going to be paid in 1997 because the employee chose not to take the vacation in 1996 so you no longer have the liability for 1996. You do not need these funds to pay the employees for they did not take the vacation or sick

days in 1996 but, instead, will take them in 1997. Why transfer the funds then?

Mr. Myers explained, the funds are being proposed for transfer in fiscal year 1996-1997, the year that ended on June 30, 1997 so that the divisions can properly recognize the sick and vacation time accrued to each of its employees, not paid but accrued. It is a confusing topic but this accounting method is no different than that used in private industry. It is a standard accounting method for recognition of employee benefits.

Mr. Gouveia noted that the June 1997 contribution to the pension fund shows employees contributing \$1,335.00 and the Town or department's contributing \$1,859.00. If the Town contribution was only 4.6% and the employee contribution is supposed to be higher than the Town's, shouldn't the dollar amount of the employees' contribution have been higher than the Town's?

Mr. Myers answered, in F.Y. 1996-97 the employees contributed 5% and the Town contributed 7.7%.

Mr. Gouveia acknowledged that he stands corrected. He asked, how difficult is it to take the Employee Pension and Benefits Account and split it into two different accounts; a pension account and a benefits account?

Mr. Myers responded, it is not very difficult at all. A pension is a benefit and the other benefits referred to in the account are benefits such as health and life insurance, longevity pay, accidental death and dismemberment insurance. There are several types of expenses recorded in the account. The account represents the employer's share of the employees' pension and benefits.

Mr. Gouveia stated that the pension fund seems to be the hot topic of the year and perhaps it would be easier for a citizen or anyone else to keep track of those funds by simply looking at a pension that declares itself as a pension fund and nothing else so that when viewing the account it is understood that it is strictly pension and absolutely nothing else.

Frank Wasilewski, 57 N. Orchard Street stated that he asked the Electric Division to separate out the pension and benefits as well. The only answer he received was what the division contributed to the pension. No information was received regarding the benefits. He has spent a good deal of time reviewing the budget over the years and was interested in the pension fund as well. He noted that the number of employees in the Sewer Division in 1995-96 was 35.9; in 1996-97 they had 37.5. The budgeted amount for employee pension and benefits for 1995-96 was \$141,833. In 1996-97 although they had more employees they cut the contribution to \$124,000. There appears to be an error in budgeting which means that they were probably \$26,000 short from the beginning. If they budgeted

properly we would not be transferring the money now.

Mr. Gouveia made it clear that he was not implying that anyone is hiding anything. He is simply stating that at any given month at any given time if you ask, how much money is set aside for the pension and how much for the benefits, they will not give you the answer even though they have it. If the two accounts were separated then the question will not have to be asked.

Mr. Dann explained, this transfer has nothing to do with the pension contribution. The premise that had the division budgeted the pension differently we would not need the transfer is not correct. Relative to the numbers that Mr. Wasilewski is providing, you have to remember that over the last several years progressively, the Town's percentage of contribution has declined. If you go back several years and check the figures it will show that the amounts were greater then than they are today. The decline is a direct result of the decision to reduce the Town's contribution. It is not a matter of a budgeting error but a change in the calculation of the amount of the employees' salary to be contributed by the Town for pension benefits.

Mr. Wasilewski agreed with Mr. Gouveia's suggestion to separate out the pension from benefits contributions. It would eliminate a great deal of confusion.

Pasquale Melillo, 15 Haller Place, Yalesville concurred with Mr. Gouveia and Mr. Wasilewski.

Geno Zandri, 37 Hallmark Drive asked, is this transfer being made because you are showing a liability for 1996-97?

Mr. Dann answered, that is correct.

Mr. Zandri added, yet, that money will not be spent in that year because that fiscal year is closed out therefore the liability is for the upcoming year's budget, is that correct?

Mr. Dann answered, that liability is attributable to activities which took place in last year's budget but not used. That is the process of making an accrual; to recognize a liability for an activity which occurred in a prior fiscal year.

Mr. Zandri added, but the sick time and vacation time could potentially be utilized in the present budget.

Mr. Dann responded, potentially, yes but it could potentially not be used until a number of years from now.

Mr. Zandri asked, will the \$26,000 show as an expense for last year?

Mr. Dann answered, yes.

Mr. Zandri asked, what happens to those dollars then?

Mr. Dann answered, they are within the division's assets identified specifically on our balance sheet as a liability. When we balance our liabilities against our assets that is one of the items that would be reflected as a current liability of the division.

Mr. Zandri asked, if the sick or vacation days happen to be utilized in this year's budget do you transfer those dollars from a specific account into this year's budget in order to pay for them?

Mr. Dann answered, no. The sick days are paid out of the accrued funds. The vacation time is typically paid out because the employee ends up taking their accrued vacation time during the course of the year and is covered under the labor dollars. In terms of where the liability was earned by the employee, it is still attributable to the prior fiscal year.

Mr. Zandri commented, this is where the confusion comes in. You are booking the expense against last year; the money has not been spent yet it could potentially be spent out of this year's budget which is already budgeted for. It seems that we have \$26,000 floating around out there somewhere and they are lost in the shuffle so to speak. It appears as though the money is being accrued but we are not tracking it in any way before it becomes a legitimate expense to the Town.

Mr. Dann admitted that it is a difficult topic to understand but it is a matter of proper accounting practice that is followed by private industry also.

Mr. Myers responded that he believes it is tracked since the utility budgets are on a full accrual accounting system. Those costs, once accrued, those accruals have to be relieved as that time is used. To be absolutely certain about that he would have to check with the people who keep the accounting records at the divisions but accounting principals would require that the accrual be adjusted for each accounting period. He will check into the matter and report back to the Council.

Mayor Dickinson explained, it is his understanding that if the Town did not perform this accounting procedure the auditors would provide notation that it has to be done.

Mr. Parisi asked Mr. Myers to check into the matter and report back to the Council.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, where would you get the money for this transfer if you did not "vacuum" up all these other

accounts?

Mr. Dann answered, as is the case with any transfer, we look for available funds where they may exist. In this case, at the close of business, these were the accounts that had the funds available.

Mr. Wright asked, if the funds in these accounts were not needed what would have happened to them at the end of the year? Where would they go?

Mr. Dann responded, the budget is made up of both revenues and expenditures. We look at the final year end outcome of both to determine how we are then impacting our overall unappropriated and cash balances.

Mr. Wright stated that he finds it difficult to understand why we can't be more precise.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; Centner, no; Gouveia abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #9 Consider and Approve a Transfer of Funds in an Amount Totalling \$21,000 from Various Accounts Within the Water Division's F.Y. 1996-97 Budget to Employee Pension and Benefits Acct. #926-000 - Water Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

There was no discussion on this item.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; Centner, no; Gouveia abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #10 Consider and Approve a Transfer in the Amount of \$1,000 from New Distribution Lines Acct. #343-098 to Distribution Reservoirs & Standpipes Acct. #342-098 - Water Division

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Correspondence from Roger Dann, General Manager of the Water and Sewer Divisions states that the Water Division is currently in the process of developing plans for the West Side Tankage Project. In conjunction with that project they have identified the routing of electrical conduit from Gaylord's property to the tank site. At the present time Gaylord is performing construction activity over a portion of the conduit run and will ultimately install a paved parking area. In order to avoid the necessity of damaging the newly installed pavement during construction of the tanks the Division, with Gaylord's permission, proposes to install the necessary conduit at this time in conjunction with Gaylord's work. In order to accomplish this task it is necessary to request this transfer of funds.

Town Council Meeting

25

August 19, 1997

Chairman Parisi abstained from voting on this item due to the fact that he is an employee of Gaylord Hospital.

Mr. Centner asked if the tankage project has a contingency account?

Mr. Dann responded, at this point we have only received an appropriation for the engineering services portion of the work. We have no funds appropriated for construction which is why there is a necessity to come back and look for money at this point in time. When the project goes out to bid and we come back with a recommendation to award that would be the point in time in which we seek to amend the ordinance to cover the cost of construction. Included in that will be some contingency funds.

Mr. Centner asked, do you have an idea of the percentage at this time?

Mr. Dann answered, it will vary depending upon each of the various types of construction activities.

Mr. Gouveia asked, is the division going to finance the entire project? Is that why there are no funds in this account?

Mr. Dann responded, no. We have not approached the Council for a funding ordinance relative to the construction phase activities therefore we have no authorization at this point to expend funds for construction.

Mr. Gouveia asked, will the tankage project be done this fiscal year?

Mr. Dann answered, we expect to be going out to bid in the Fall of this year with construction activity hopefully starting next Spring. The project should take between 12-18 months.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; Parisi abstained; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #11 Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File Application with the State of Connecticut for State Drug Enforcement Grant Funds - Mayor's Office

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Resolution and Append a Copy of it to the Minutes of This Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Gouveia stated, it bothers him that large cities will receive entitlements of these grants as if they are entitled to them. The State in their wisdom feels that the smaller cities such as ours are not entitled to anything; they have to fight for whatever is remaining of the entitlements. It is sad. The drug problem is one that does not only afflict larger cities; it afflicts smaller cities like Wallingford as well. We should be entitled to funds

the same as the larger cities.

Philip A. Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street asked, what is the amount of money that may be available?

Mr. Parisi responded, the maximum amount may be \$50,000.

Mayor Dickinson explained, this current year we received \$37,000 and the maximum allowable is \$50,000 which is what we request. It is a question of how much they approve.

Mr. Gouveia asked, what amount of money is approved for the larger cities such as Bridgeport, Hartford or Waterbury?

Don Roe, Program Planner responded that he was not sure and that he would forward a list of the cities and their entitlements to the Council.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #12 Consider and Approve Waiving the Lease Payment of \$750 by SCOW Unless Grant Money to Cover Said Payment is Available - Mayor's Office

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Don Roe, Program Planner explained how the yearly payment of \$750 has been waived in the past by the Council on several occasions in the event that the grant does not provide the funds to cover said cost. Generally, in the past SCOW has been able to cover most if not all of it and it is too early to tell at this time whether or not it will be covered. The grant basically covers most of the payroll. In addition, there are funds that come from the United Way since they are an agency of the organization, the Town of Wallingford's contribution and fund raising events held by the Board. The State has seemingly "frozen" the grant amount to the Town at \$36,919. It has been the exact amount received for the past four or five years. Because of changes in employees and personnel there have been times that their budget has been amended and included, at a later date, a rent line item to recapture some of those dollars.

Mr. Farrell stated, for those people watching the meeting on television at home who don't quite understand what is going on, SCOW stands for the Spanish Community of Wallingford. Anyone who is not familiar with it should know that it is a social service agency that does a lot for Wallingford's spanish-speaking population helping them to assimilate into the community; getting them jobs; a lot of social services. Even if we don't get the grant money it does not bother him to help the agency out by waiving the lease payment.

Ms. Papale added, although the SCOW acronym refers to the spanish population in town, they do not only serve spanish people. We have had a large population of mexican people coming into town as well as from other parts of the world. SCOW will serve them all equally. They have an excellent Executive Director of the agency and stated that she is a member of the Board of Directors. It is an important organization in the town.

Philip Wright, Sr., 160 Cedar Street stated that he is glad that we have SCOW in Wallingford. He wished that the spanish-speaking community were a little more evident in various circles in town including the political process. It would be a benefit to the town if they were. He asked if Mr. Roe administers the grants himself?

Mr. Rowe responded, the Program Planning Office administers the grants. The accounting is done jointly with the Comptroller's Office and a person in the Program Planning Office.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ADDENDUM ITEM #12a Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Make Application to the State of CT. Department of Social Services for the SCOW (Spanish Community of Wallingford) Grant - Mayor's Office

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Resolution and to Append a Copy of it to the Minutes of This Meeting, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #13 Consider and Approve a Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute and File an Application with the State of Connecticut for a Social Service Block Grant - Mayor's Office

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Approve the Resolution and to Append a Copy of it to the Minutes of This Meeting, seconded by Mr. Centner.

Historically, the Town has applied for this block grant each year to obtain funds which help to support the meals program for the homebound as well as counseling programs at the Wallingford Day Care and Youth Bureau.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Mr. Gouveia commented that he was very saddened to read in the paper that Sue McLaughlin had resigned as Director of the Youth

Service Bureau. He was not aware of the circumstances involved nor did he care to know them however he must say, although he has had very few dealings with Sue, he has always found her to have the best interest of children in mind; worked extremely hard and was very committed to children's problems; was always willing to help children resolve their own problems and to help families in need. He was very saddened to hear that she had left the Town's employment.

Mr. Roe responded, Sue has been here a good many years and we certainly thank her for her years of contributions.

ITEM #14 SET A PUBLIC HEARING for September 9, 1997 at 7:45 P.M. on an Ordinance Appropriating \$150,000 for the Design of a Senior Center and Authorizing the Issuance of \$150,000 Bonds of the Town to Meet Said Appropriation and Pending the Issuance Thereof the Making of Temporary Borrowings for Such Purpose

Motion was made by Mr. Rys, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

Mayor Dickinson asked that the figure be changed to \$175,000 because we have not resolved, at this point, some dispute regarding the low bidder and rather than give the impression that we know what we are going to do when we don't, make it \$175,000. The Town Attorney's Office is reviewing the bids now. We can reduce it at the public hearing, if necessary.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

ITEM #15 Consider and Approve Authorizing Corporation Counsel of the Town to Bid the Amount of the Town's Debt in a Matter Involving Unpaid Tax Liens - Law Department

Adam Mantzaris, Corporation Counselor explained, it is a foreclosure of a lot in a subdivision. I would increase the amount to \$30,000 but I did not think to include the amount of the estimated expenses of the foreclosing committee. I hope the bidding gets up as high as our debt. If, by some chance, we end up owning the property we will only have to pay the committee expenses. He asked for the authority to bid up to \$30,000. The auction is September 6, 1997.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell, seconded by Mr. Centner.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

WAIVER OF RULE V Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Waive Rule V of the Town Council Meeting Procedures for the Purpose of Holding an Executive Session to Discuss the Sale of Property, seconded by Mr. Knight.

Town Council Meeting

29

August 19, 1997

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Enter Into Executive Session Pursuant to Section 1-18a(e)(4) of the CT. General Statutes with Respect to the Sale, Purchase or Lease of Property, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Council entered executive session at 9:50 P.M.

Present in executive session were all Councilors (with the exception of Mr. Renda and Mr. Zappala) and Mayor Dickinson.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Exit the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Farrell.

VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

The Council exited the executive session at 10:08 P.M.

Motion was made by Mr. Rys to Authorize the Mayor's Office to Negotiate the Purchase of Real Estate as Discussed in Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Farrell.


VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

Motion was made by Mr. Farrell to Adjourn the Meeting, seconded by Ms. Papale.

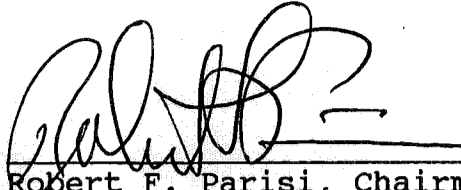
VOTE: Renda & Zappala were absent; all others, aye; motion duly carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 10:10 P.M.

Meeting recorded and transcribed by:


Kathryn F. Zandri
Town Council Secretary

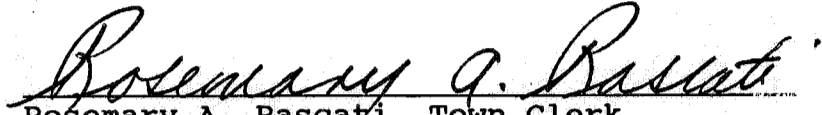
Approved by:



Robert F. Parisi, Chairman

9-23-97

Date



Rosemary A. Rascati, Town Clerk

9-23-97

Date

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town of Wallingford at a meeting of its Town Council on _____, (Date) and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

(Date) (Clerk) (Secretary)

(SEAL)

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO Ct. General Statutes 21a-274a, the Office of Policy and Management is authorized to extend financial assistance to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the Town of Wallingford make application to the State in such amounts as may be available for undertaking a Drug Enforcement Program and, to execute a Grant Action Request therefore.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE WALLINGFORD TOWN COUNCIL

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for State assistance imposed by Ct. General Statutes 21a-274a.
2. That it recognizes the responsibility for the provision of local grant-in-aids to the extent that they are necessary and required for said program.
3. That the filing of an application by the Town is hereby approved and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file such application with the Office of Policy and Management, to provide such additional information as may be requested, to execute a Grant Action Request with the State of Connecticut for state financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, recisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the Town.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF LOCAL AGENCY

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford at its meeting on _____ and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

Date Clerk Secretary

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the TOWN OF WALLINGFORD make application to the Department of Social Services in such amounts as may be made available for undertaking a Community Service Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD that the Mayor, William W. Dickinson, Jr., file such application with the Department of Social Services, to provide such additional information as may be requested, to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town and to act as the authorized representative of the Town.

CERTIFIED RESOLUTION OF LOCAL AGENCY

Certified a true copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Wallingford at its meeting on _____, and which has not been rescinded or modified in any way whatsoever.

_____ Date _____ Clerk _____ Secretary

WHEREAS, it is desirable and in the public interest that the TOWN OF WALLINGFORD make application to the Department of Social Services in such amounts as may be made available for undertaking a Social Service Block Grant Program.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF WALLINGFORD that the Mayor, William W. Dickinson, Jr., file such application with the Department of Social Services, to provide such additional information as may be requested, to enter into and amend contractual instruments in the name and on behalf of the Town and to act as the authorized representative of the Town.